

THE EMPEROR OF CHINA'S BIRTHDAY.

Reception of Mr. C. Alee and Mr. Goo Kim.

Friday, being the sixteenth anniversary of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China, the event was duly celebrated in this city for the first time. Mr. C. Alee, the Chinese Commercial Agent, and Mr. Goo Kim, the Deputy Agent, gave a mid-day reception at the offices of Messrs. Chulan & Co. on Nuanu street. A great deal of pains and good taste had been displayed in the matter of decorations. The Imperial Dragon Flag, so rarely unfurled in this part of the world, was yesterday hoisted on Nuanu street. The entrance to the building was strewn with rushes, and the interior of the reception rooms were profusely decorated with bunting and evergreens, the words "Aloha Nui" being artistically worked in. The Royal Band was stationed in the court yard below, and on the arrival of His Majesty he was received with due honor.

Among the numerous guests who called to pay their respects to the official representatives of China were His Ex. Governor Dominis, His Ex. the Minister of the Interior, His Excellency the Attorney-General, His Excellency Rollin M. Daggett, U. S. Minister Resident; Major J. H. Wodehouse, H. B. M. Commissioner and Consul-General, Mons. Feer, Commissioner and Consul for France; Consuls McKinley, Schmidt and Macfarlane; Hons. C. R. Bishop, Dr. J. Smith, E. Preston, C. P. Iauka, S. M. Damon and A. N. Tripp, Messrs. W. G. Irwin, J. D. Spreckels, R. F. Dickerton, T. R. Walker, M. Remenyi.

The hosts had considerably engaged the services of a chef, who provided a bountiful cold collation, to which was added an assortment of wines that could not be excelled at Delmonico's. His Majesty and a few of the honored guests were decorated according to Hawaiian custom. On His Majesty leaving, a royal salute was fired.

Though this is the first celebration of this auspicious event in Honolulu, it was nevertheless a grand success, and we join in the wish that Emperor Kwang Su may have "Many happy returns of the day."

Remenyi's Second Concert.

The second Remenyi Concert was another grand success. Mr. Isador Luckstone opened the entertainment with a piano solo. Miss Downing followed with a soprano aria, and Mr. Rudolf Himmer with a recitation and aria. The *Maestro* appeared next and was received with a grand ovation. His *Fantasia* on "Othello" was simply immense. A profound silence prevailed throughout the piece, and on his drawing the final string, the whole audience burst out with such a round of applause as had never before been heard within the Music Hall walls. Mr. Remenyi readily responded to the enthusiastic encore, and once more he left the stage amidst loud cheers. But it was not until after his second appearance, when responding to a second encore, that he fairly reached the Hawaiian portion of the audience. During the day it had been Mons. Remenyi's good fortune to hear some Hawaiian songs. Ever ready for the occasion he at once adapted them to his "Princess," and Friday night he electrified his listeners by a most charming rendition of *Aloha Oe* and other native selections with which all are familiar. There was still another treat in store, the "Carnival de Venice." It is enough for us to say that it was played by Mons. Remenyi. No further comment is necessary. Everyone who heard Mons. Remenyi last night will assuredly avail themselves of the next opportunity of so doing, and whenever he plays in this city he can feel assured that he will have a full and appreciative audience.

The "Honolulu Rifles" Luau.

On Wednesday evening the gentlemen forming the Honolulu Rifle Corps, in conjunction with the "King's Own," entertained His Majesty, the Hon. Members of the Legislature, and a few of their friends at a *Luau*. The reception took place at the residence of Captain Aldrich, that charming spot in Panoa Valley, so well known and renowned for the many convivial gatherings that have been held there.

At seven o'clock the military companies, headed by the Royal Hawaiian Band, marched from the armory up Nuanu Valley, halting at the Captain's domicile. Pickets and scouts were detailed for night duty and the rest of the corps were temporarily dispersed, but ready for immediate action.

His Majesty arrived about 8 o'clock, and was received with due military honors. After an interchange of courtesies by host and guests, a general move was made over to the spacious *lanai*, that had been erected on the lawn, where a most sumptuous collation of all the obtainable delicacies was gorgeously spread. Justice having been done to the inner man, a number of toasts were proposed and drunk in true military style. Throughout the dinner the band played some charming airs, thereby adding to the hilarity of the occasion. A special entertainment was provided for the latter part of the evening, which every one thoroughly appreciated. It was past midnight

before the party broke up, and on parting with the gallant Captain, every one felt as happy as a soldier can feel.

Success to the Honolulu Rifles.

Session of Privy Council.

The Privy Council met Wednesday afternoon, with an attendance of from thirty-five to forty members. All the new members whose appointment we published Wednesday were present. Several charters were reported upon by the committee to whom they had been referred, and were granted. An application from the Spanish Government for the pardon of Manuel Mendoza, who is suffering a sentence for arson here, was referred to a committee consisting of His Excellency the Attorney-General and Hon. E. Preston. The *Bulletin-Press* charter was not brought up, so much older business being on hand. If rumor be worthy of credit, it is very unlikely that the charter will be granted. Facilities for the promulgation of seditious writing are hardly the proper objects of favor by the King in Privy Council, so it need not surprise any one if this charter is refused.

A False Alarm.

About a quarter to last Tuesday evening the dread fire alarm sounded throughout the city and all the gallant firemen rushed to their respective posts. The engines were turned out and the usual question was asked: "Where is the fire?" Nobody could tell. But the truth soon leaked out. There was no fire at all. The ringing of the bell was a ruse in order to enable Engine Co., No. 2, to take possession of their engine, which they did with alacrity and surety. The temporary keeper of the house was forced to give way to the impetuous firemen, and when once they had possession they revealed the fact to those who would have taken possession of their property. It was generally admitted to be a smart trick, and the gentlemen with whom the idea occurred take equal credit with him who suggested the closing of the doors. Thus ends Act I.

Professional Stranglers.

Thugs are known to have existed during the seventeenth century, when they used female decoys for the unwary traveler, as they did within the present century, though they are of a much older date than that period. The fraternity is not composed of men of one caste, but of people of different castes and religions, and living in different districts; having secret signs and a peculiar dialect known to all those who are initiated into the fraternity. Strange to say, however, the majority of them are nominally not Hindoos, but Mohammedans, and their tradition is that they originally sprang from seven tribes, all of that religion, living in the neighborhood of Delhi, from which they were dislodged in the 17th century. The Hindoos, however, say the caste was in existence long before Mohammed's time. But as they all agree in worshipping the Hindoo god Kali, observe the Hindoo feasts in her honor, present offerings at temples, and, especially after any murder, present to her a piece of silver and some sugar, they may be said to be a Hindoo sect. Those who are initiated into the body are taught the secret signs, but only those who apply the noose receive the sacred water of Thuggee, which is believed to change a man's whole nature. From boyhood to manhood they are taught to look upon the strangulation of offending victims as their calling in life, into which they are gradually initiated. First, the neophyte is employed as a scout, or *sotah*, only, his duty being to give warning of the approach of a traveler. Sometimes the women and children, as less apt to be suspected, are employed in this work; then he is allowed to see the corpse after it has been strangled, and to assist at the interment; lastly, after a solemn initiation by means of the sacred sugar, he is elevated to the rank of a *bhuttote*, or strangler, and allowed to use the noose, or *roomal*, by which the victims are dispatched. The whole gang is governed by a *jamadar*, *sirdar*, or chief, and has attached to it a *guru*, or teacher. Nothing about their unholy calling is, however, in the Thug's eyes unholy: on the contrary, everything is sacred. The *lugaees*, or gravediggers, constitute one of the highest grades in the order. The pickaxe with which the grave is dug is solemnly forged and consecrated. It is considered as a gift from Kali, and looked upon accordingly with great veneration. Every seventh day it is brought out and worshipped, and, no matter how pressing the necessity, the grave for the victim can be dug by no other instrument. All the Thugs follow some ostensible trade, but travel about from place to place, under various disguises, straggling into villages in twos and threes, and meeting as strangers. Secrecy is one of the essentials of their work: never will they knowingly strangle a victim in the presence of any one not belonging to their order.—*The Peoples of the World*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made, or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

Ramie.

Mr. Editor: I see that the Ramie Bill has been reported back to the House, with the recommendation that the amount asked for (\$50,000) be reduced to \$5,000, and that the bill has been placed in the hands of another committee. To examine into the matter further to see what is best to do in the interest of ramie, I wish to give a few of my views on the subject, hoping that they will have some weight with the "powers that be."

The project which I have so long and earnestly worked at, now seems to be culminating successfully. It should now, at this juncture, receive the aid and encouragement from the Government which I fully believe it is entitled to, from the importance it will have in the future prosperity of this kingdom.

Some years ago, while Moechoua was Minister of the Interior, I asked that Thomas Square, which was then lying idle, be placed at my disposal to be used as a nursery for ramie and jute. The seeds and roots grown there were to be free to all who might wish to plant them. Moechoua was wise enough to see what such a nursery might lead to, and granted the request; but there was a change in that office, and his successor was short-sighted enough to annul the permission so given. Had I been permitted to have the assistance then asked for there would have been jute growing here, and an article of export to-day; and there would have been more knowledge on the subject of ramie-growing and clearing than there is to-day. I was laughed at then; but I have kept at the project as opportunity offered, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that the interest I see manifested in it here to-day is the direct result of my efforts. I sincerely hope and trust that the Government will not be short-sighted enough now to damn the enterprise with "faint praise," as it surely will do if the Legislature makes the mistake of not giving what is asked for, but cuts the appropriation down to \$5,000. Let the Legislature make an ample appropriation for the encouragement of the industry of raising ramie. This will induce people to go into the cultivation of it, and the Hawaiian Ramie Company will then come into existence, and go to work in earnest. This project is of sufficient importance to the nation to entitle it to receive the earnest and most careful attention of every member of the Legislature.

I am sorry that the subject was allowed to lie dormant in the House so long before being called up and looked into. It will be useless for the Government or private parties to propose to take up the matter, and put just money enough into it to fairly start it, and then have the whole project stop for lack of funds. I have been there once or twice, and I do not propose to be there again. I am not going to take the matter up to push it forward without adequate support or guarantee to see it through.

There is only one way in which the ramie can be cleared, and that process is covered by a patent granted to me for a term of years by different Governments, and with that as a basis for our organization, I can build an industry here both agricultural and mechanical that will more than repay the Government for the money it is asked to be ready to furnish as it is required to foster the enterprise. Parties who may wish to plant will want to know when and how much they can realize per ton for the ramie fibre raised by them; and if the Government appropriate enough to supplement the capital of the company, they can then offer sufficient inducement to would-be planters to take hold and plant. There is, perhaps, some two acres of ramie scattered throughout the islands in small patches, and we have got to start at the beginning and grow our seed first. I have been doing what I could to get small nurseries started by sending roots and seeds to those who try the growing of it. It is a very prolific plant, and if pushed vigorously will multiply very rapidly. The enterprise has got to be pushed forward with energy, skill, and prudence, and with a determination to make it a success from the start, and place it on a self-sustaining and paying basis in as short a time as possible. In order to do so, the Government should pass the bill as asked for without tinkering at it to render the aid useless. I am willing to devote the talents and knowledge I possess to the successful accomplishment of the enterprise if I see that the Government will take hold of it in earnest, and thus infuse "Dutch courage" into the men of money here to induce them to place their shoulders to the wheel, and make the ramie problem an accomplished fact.

Respectfully,

C. C. J. COLEMAN.

The following letter is published in the interest of insurance companies, since it is said that laughter lengthens life:

"Mr. C. O. BERGER: Dear Sir—I am in receipt of a postal card advising me that my next annual premium (policy No. 43,369) is \$147.04. Thereby I am reminded that the life-insurance business,

as managed by your company, is, like the providence of God, past finding out. I began paying \$80 cash and \$52 note on this policy in 1857, and it seemed on these terms an inexpensive luxury. It would have been if I had died. Unhappily I survived, and now for ten years I have been struggling as much to keep the policy as myself alive. But the appetite of this policy, I observe, does grow by what it feeds on, and the danger is that it will shortly exceed in its demands my ability to provide for it, and I shall see it die on my hands.

"The steady and constant increase in the amount of the premium on this policy began to excite my curiosity, not to say my admiration, several years ago. The agent to whom I applied for enlightenment (I have passed through the hands of five or six, each of whom has amassed a fortune and retired) so overwhelmed me with mathematics of the most mixed and abstruse character that I fell back from the investigation greatly humiliated at my own ignorance, and profoundly impressed with the reasons of the company—or the agent—I could not tell which.

"I think I realize, and hope I appreciate gratefully, the beneficent operation of this steady progression in the cost of the policy. It makes one contemplate death with resignation, and look upon that consummation as devoutly to be wished for—to checkmate the company. Did you ever think how Booth or McCulloch might improve Hamlet's soliloquy and thrill an admiring audience by just holding up one of your life-insurance policies at the words 'There's the respect that makes calamity of so long life?'

"But I fear I trespass on your time. Is it true that insurance officials, notwithstanding the meagreness of their salaries, are overworked? I will come at once to business. I need not trace the steady increase in these premiums. Sufficient that last year I paid \$147.04 upon a policy, the annual premium on which was \$132 ten years ago. At this rate of interest, and my discouragingly sound health, I cannot undertake to compete with the company. I am aware, of course, that a policy-holder who has paid ten annual premiums can proudly expect the consideration due one who, not being insured, seeks information. Being a fish in the basket, I do not expect the consideration due one in the sea. And yet I would like to know whether policy No. 43,269 has any surrender value. I am already in possession of a considerable accumulation of tracts, pamphlets, circulars, almanacs, calendars, and extracts from religious newspapers which afford abundant knowledge as to the facilities and methods of getting into life-insurance. But what I now seek is information as to how to get out.

"Pardon me if I have used to great familiarity in addressing a man whose acquaintance with logarithms, mortality tables, and the differential calculus entitles him to the name of benefactor and the salary of an actuary. I am not ignorant of what is due the representative of \$27,000,000—if these be the figures—of assets. I address you because your name appears on the seductive postal card which invites me to add \$147.04 to these twenty-seven millions. I presume you are no stranger to the complaints of disappointed policy-holders, and it is impossible that you dismiss them all without consideration. But there may be some one in your employ who can show me the cheapest way out. Will you please refer me to him, that I may present my policy and receipts and things, with the conundrum which once staggered the intelligence of Daniel Webster—'What is all this worth?' But then Webster knew scarcely anything of life-insurance."

POLICY HOLDER.

Flax vs. Ramie.

The popular delusion called the sugar mania enhanced the price of labor about 5 years ago far beyond any other country engaged in its production.

A partial collapse of this industry, accelerated by excessive cost of labor, is the present situation.

We now appear to be at the commencement of a ramie mania, which requires the labor of cultivating, cutting, carting and manipulating 25 tons of the plant to produce one ton of fibre.

The plant, having gone through a machine and steam and dipping process, produces a fibre of inferior quality, as the gum resin, which connects the infinitesimal fibres cannot be dissolved or separated by these means without injuring it.

Chamber's *Edinburg Journal* of March 10, 1884, contains the latest information, the article being headed "Nettle Cloth." "The New Zealand flax fibre, when separated from the epidermis, has to contend with a similar difficulty, to surmount which large sums were offered by the Government which stimulated enterprise for a time, but resulted in the collapse of all companies on

a large scale, leaving the industry to small farmers with families, who devote other side lost time to its production. The export amounted to \$250,000 per annum, besides a large quantity manufactured in rope works in the colony which is also exported in large quantities. The value of the flax is about \$125 per ton and the rope \$230. The extracting of the gum resin to enhance the value of the fibre, by enabling manufacturers to spin it with other material at a profit, is as Chambers concludes—not yet.

VERITAS.

Government Lands.

Mr. Editor.—Only a few days ago several thousand acres of land in the Hilo district were disposed of by the Crown Commissioner. Now these lands ought to have been secured, by an appropriation for that purpose by the Government, to supply *bona fide* settlers in suitable lots.

Thousands of Portuguese are here, and more are coming; at the expiration of their term of labor they cannot obtain land, and leave for the United States.

Their retention in these Islands is of paramount importance as producers and taxpayers.

It is evident that a large appropriation for this purpose would prove a reproductive investment, and cause a large increase to the population of permanent settlers, and also be the means in the near future of producing exports of fibres and other staple articles of commerce.

Your insertion of these remarks will oblige,

Yours, Truly,

VERITAS.

Sorghum Sugar.

EDITOR P. C. ADVERTISER.—In view of the following statement (which I clip from *Farm, Field and Fireside* for July) and the probable correctness of Mr. Collier's opinion on the subject of sorghum, might it not be as well for the planters and others whose incomes depend entirely upon cane sugar—"as she is grown" here—to start into something else pretty soon?

BRIGHT PREDICTIONS FOR SORGHUM SUGAR.

Dr. Collier, in his work on sorghum, says that when worked by the best methods which we now have fully one-third of the sugar is left in the stalks, and that such a loss is permitted to continue is a reproach to the industrial science of the country. It is by no means improbable that a variety of sorghum will be developed much superior in sugar-producing qualities to any we now have. Great improvement has been made in the beet, and like improvement is certain to be made in sorghum. Nor does he doubt that within a very few years we shall render ourselves independent of other nations for our sugar supply. He predicts that before 1900 we shall be profitably exporting sugar, and bases his belief on these facts:

1. About thirty-eight per cent of all our cultivated land is devoted to corn growing, showing the perfect adaptability of our climate to corn.
2. The conditions of successful growth of sorghum and corn are the same.
3. The methods of cultivation are identical.
4. Analyses have shown that sorghum seed differs from corn no more than one variety of corn from another.
5. Feeding experiments have shown that sorghum seed is as good for fattening animals as corn, and may be substituted for it.
6. As much sorghum seed per acre can be produced as of corn.
7. Ninety-five per cent. of the sorghum now grown is for the seeds and leaves alone, as feed.
8. It is only after the seed is thoroughly ripe that the most sweet is available.
9. When sorghum is mature, it contains as much sugar as is found in the best tropical cane.
10. Experiment has shown that even in small mills the syrup can be made at from 12 to 25 cents per gallon.
11. A yield of six pounds of sugar from a gallon of syrup is a fair average.
12. Excellent sugar has already been made from sorghum at a cost not exceeding 4 1/2 cents per pound, taking no account of the value of seed.

In view of these results, Prof. Collier has no doubt that sugar can now be made for 2 cents per pound, and predicts that within ten years it will be made for one cent per pound, making this the sugar producing country of the world.

An elderly lady who visited the New York custom house to transact some business that required her to take an oath, made a funny mistake. "You'll have to swear to this, madam," said the deputy collector to the old lady. Her pious countenance became very thoughtful and troubled at this announcement. She said nothing, but anxiously watched the deputy collector make out her papers. This done he said: "Do you swear to this, madam?" The old lady had clearly made up her mind that it was necessary for her to pass the ordeal. So, with a sweet but hesitating voice, she replied: "God have mercy on me—Damn it." The deputy collector was dumfounded by this reply, but a glance at the lady assured him of her sincerity. She thought really that a little profanity was necessary.